

MINUTES OF THE

92nd Imtac MEETING



Date: 11th March 2010, The Mount Belfast

Present: Frank Caddy (Chair)
William Stewart
Elizabeth Black
David McDonald
Ann Collins
Ann Gamble
Henry Mayne
Terry Butler
Max O'Brien
Norma Moore
Barbara Fleming
Francis Hughes
Laura Slater
Ronnie Patterson
Andrew Murdock

Apologies: Anita Gracey
Kellie Armstrong
Philip Blair
Etta Mann
Olaf Hvattum
Gavin Hamilton

Observers: Janet Watson (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Alan Preston (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission)
Ryan Simpson (General Consumer Council)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

Prior to the meeting Frank thanked Henry Mayne who is standing down from the Committee for all his support over the years. Frank also announced that Neil Gillan and Dessie Ferguson have resigned.

1 **Minutes of the last meeting**

1.1 Francis asked that his name be removed from apologies. David asked that members request for a Christmas dinner be recorded.

Michael

1.2 Subject to these changes the minutes were agreed.

2 **Matters arising**

2.1 AV on Buses

Frank informed members that there has been some progress towards identifying a system to pilot AV on buses

2.2 Door2door

The Group discussed the publication of the Door2door issues paper and in particular a request from DRD to change some aspects of the paper including removing the term fit for purpose with regard to current vehicles. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to reword the section on refusals, the section on vehicle specification and to add a paragraph around complaints procedures.

Michael

2.3 Concessionary Fares

Frank updated members on a recent meeting with DRD officials around administration of the Concessionary Fares Scheme. Officials have taken legal advice on the current arrangements and believe they are sound. Members requested that formal advice be sought from the Equality Commission. Alan suggested the Committee wait until the Department writes formally about legal advice. This was agreed.

2.4 Shared Surfaces

Frank updated members on correspondence Minister Ritchie around a moratorium on shared surface schemes. Minister Ritchie has made it clear she will make a decision on this when DfT publish research into shared surfaces. In the meantime the Committee must respond to individual

schemes.

2.5 Learning disability report

Frank informed members that discussions are ongoing with DRD around finalising the Learning Disability Report.

2.6 Streets Ahead

Frank and Michael updated members on a recent meeting with DSD, Roads Service and DRD about Belfast City Centre. It has been agreed to look at the completed Streets Ahead work to look at snagging issues. Roads Service has agreed to look at a workshop with disabled people around the traffic management issues. The Access and Mobility Study should be published by Easter.

2.7 Easibus

Frank informed members that Easibus has been discussed at the recent meeting with DRD officials. A formal response has been promised to the letter sent by the Committee in December. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to await correspondence from the Department

3 **Draft Response to the EQIA on Restricted Access Permits**

3.1 Michael explained the background to the consultation and the draft response.

3.2 Ann Collins and Max both expressed major reservations about the impact of the arrangements on Blue Badge holders. Both expressed a desire to see less restrictive access in the future.

3.3 Andrew expressed his concern about the impact of allowing greater car access on other disabled people. He asked that the Committee not be forced to choose which disabled people are more important.

3.4 The Group agreed the response with the proviso that it be strengthened with regard to lessening the impact on Blue Badge holders.

Michael

4 Draft Work Programme

4.1 Michael explained the reasons for the new format. He suggested that Imtac produce future work programmes in easy read. This was agreed.

4.2 Members welcomed the new format and the content of the Work Programme. Max suggested licensing issues are included under proposed work with DVA.

4.3 Frank indicated that he would arrange to speak with DRD to seek their views and agree the programme.

**Michael
Frank**

5 Working Group updates

5.1 Ann updated members on the work of the Personal Mobility Group.

5.2 David updated members on the work of the Information and Training Group.

5.3 Michael updated members on the work of the Public Transport Group. Members expressed an interest in seeing the Translink Access Guide published soon.

6 ATS Update

6.1 Members received copies of the recently published ATS Action Plan. Max asked for assurances that comments from Imtac and others had been taken on board when developing the Plan. Alan confirmed this was the case.

7 Imtac Review update

7.1 Alan explained that the Report from KPMG is still to be received by DRD. This is due to personal issues for the staff involved. When the report is received it will go to the minister after which the Department will talk to the Committee.

9 Any other business

9.1 Michael reminded members about the forthcoming trips to airports and the need to bring appropriate ID.

9.2 Michael reminded members to submit expenses before the end of March.

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th June 2010 at 12.30pm at the Mount, Belfast.